

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent comprising camu camu seed extract as an active component, wherein the whitening agent does not comprise camu camu pulp extract.
2. (Original) The whitening agent of claim 1, wherein said camu camu seed extract contains at least one of gallic acid and salts thereof.
3. (Original) A skin preparation for external use comprising the whitening agent of claim 1.
4. (Original) A cosmetic comprising the whitening agent of claim 1.
5. (New) A whitening agent comprising camu camu seed extract as an active component, wherein the vitamin C content of the camu camu seed extract is 1 mg/100g or less.
6. (New) The whitening agent of claim 5, wherein said camu camu seed extract contains at least one of gallic acid and salts thereof.
7. (New) A skin preparation for external use comprising the whitening agent of claim 5.
8. (New) A cosmetic comprising the whitening agent of claim 5.